DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MYSORE.

THE JOLA GRASSHOPPER.

An organised campaign was carried out against this pest in 1911 by the Agricultural Department in villages round Honnali and Chitaldrug where it threatened to do serious damage to the Jola crop. The pest was known to be prevalent in Malebennur, Davangere, Channagiri and Vijapur; but in these places, rain fell rather late in the season and by the time the hoppers emerged, the crop had not been sown, or if sown, had not come up. The hoppers were consequently mostly starved to death. The operations against this pest were for this reason not extended to these centres. As a consequence of the work of the Agricultural Department and the unfavourable season for the pest alluded to before, the number of the hoppers has decreased considerably and the infestation is small and scattered this year.

The conditions that operated against the multiplication of the pest last year were abnormal and cannot reasonably be expected to recur. When it is remembered that each female hopper can lay seventy-five eggs, it is easy to see that the comparatively small number of hoppers now left will multiply rapidly and that in a couple of years the pest will be as bad as ever it was. It is therefore of great importance that the hoppers now remaining should be collected and killed off to reduce the chances of a reappearance of the pest as far as possible. It is necessary to do this, of course, before the hoppers begin to lay eggs.

As the number of hoppers is not likely to be much above 1,000 per acre, they can be easily picked by hand or a hand-net may be used if the crop is not too high. A hand-net is merely a bag, the mouth of which is always kept open by a ring of cane or bamboo, about a foot in diameter. A handle is attached firmly to the ring, and the whole contrivance can be made at a cost of about 4 annas each. The hoppers can be killed by dropping them into water with a little kerosene oil.

Copies of the Kanada bulletin giving in detail the life history of the pest can be had free on application to the department.

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